

# A Quicker Diagnosis

From computer-record systems to diagnostic equipment to minimally invasive surgical tools, a high-tech revolution has enveloped—and improved—health care.

Oroville Hospital is at the forefront of this movement. It's so important, in fact, that the management team includes a practicing physician, Dr. Narinder Singh, dedicated to keeping the medical center on the leading edge of technology.

**“Every little detail you catch early, you save lives.”**

Case in point is the 64 CT Scan. Oroville Hospital installed this brand new scanner in May, and it was up and running by June.

Short for 64 Computed Tomography, and also known as a “64-slice CT” for its number of detectors, the 64 CT Scan allows physicians to evaluate patients' risks for strokes and heart attacks with greater speed and accuracy than previously possible.

There was a time when a CT machine could take one image (slice) per revolution and a revolution might take up to 10 minutes. The 64 CT can take 64 images per revolution and reach speeds of up to

3 revolutions per second. It's like the difference between a snapshot and a moving picture.

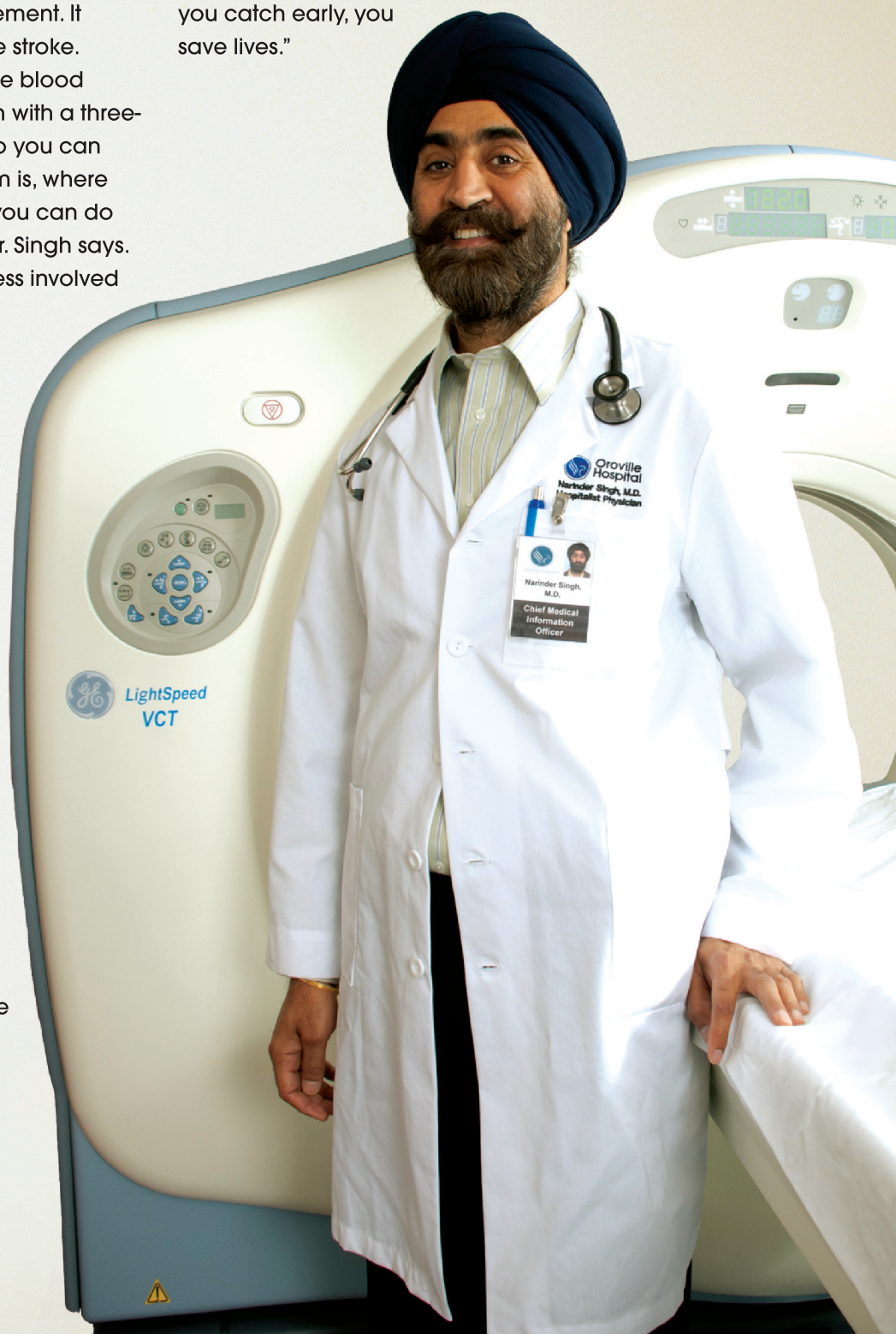
“With this scanner, you can get the whole heart's anatomy photographed in five heartbeats, so this is a big improvement. It also helps to diagnose stroke. It can outline the whole blood circulation to the brain with a three-dimensional model, so you can see where the problem is, where the blockage is, and you can do something about it.” Dr. Singh says. “It's very helpful and less involved than an angiogram.

“Suppose a patient comes into the emergency room with chest pain but low risk factors for a heart attack,” he says. “If they go to the Cath Lab, a catheter is inserted; they would have to rest for 8 hours, may stay overnight in the hospital and it's an invasive procedure.”

“With the CT you get very similar pictures that you would get with an angiogram. So we can decide in the emergency room if the patient needs to stay overnight or can go home.”

The 64 CT Scan, like other diagnostic tools, can play a big part in disease prevention as well as detection.

“Technology is very helpful,” Dr. Singh says. “Every little detail you catch early, you save lives.”



Oroville Hospital